



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

**OFFICE OF MISSION  
SUPPORT**

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEES TO THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NORTH  
AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

**FROM:** Donna J. Vizian, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

**TO:** Andrew R. Wheeler  
Administrator

Per your request, this memo provides background information on the National and Governmental Advisory Committees (NAC and GAC). These two EPA Presidential federal advisory committees advise the U.S. Government on trade and environment issues related to the portfolio of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The EPA Administrator is the U.S. Representative in the governing Council of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Thus, the committees directly advise the EPA Administrator. The EPA Administrator appoints each member for two-year terms. These committees are managed by the Office of Mission Support, Federal Advisory Committee Management Division, in close collaboration with the Office of International and Tribal Affairs.

The NAC and GAC are authorized under articles 17 and 18, respectively, of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. They were established in 1994 pursuant to Executive Order 12915, "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation" (*see attachment 1: EO Establishing Committees*). The committees operate under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C., App. 2. In 2017, the committees were continued for two years, under the authority of Executive Order 13811, dated September 29, 2017. Executive Order 13811 extended the committees until September 30, 2019. Every two years GSA, in conjunction with OMB, asks EPA if it wants to continue the committees for two additional years.

**ACTION:** EPA must respond to GSA/OMB with a decision whether to continue the committees for two additional years (*see attachment 2: GSA Request for Continuation Memo*). A response to GSA was due May 31, 2019.

**MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES**

The National Advisory Committee is composed of 15 members from business, academia, and NGO's. The Governmental Advisory Committee is composed of 13 representatives from state, local, and tribal governments (*see attachment 3: Membership Rosters*). Throughout the committees' 25-year history, past members have included business partners from *Bridgestone America, Dow Chemical, DuPont, General Electric, General Motors, Motorola, Phillips Electronics, and the U.S. Council for International*

*Business*; as well as numerous academics and NGOs such as *World Wildlife Fund* and the *Wild Habitat Council* and representatives from tribal, state, and local governments.

During 2018-19, the committees provided advice to EPA on Marine Litter, Food Waste, and Extreme Weather Events. These priority topics were identified by the U.S. Alternate Representative in the Office of International and Tribal Affairs. The committees play an essential role in providing EPA advice on the CEC's Operational Plan, the five-year Strategic Plan, and any priority issues related to the work of the CEC. In the past, the committees have been instrumental in advancing the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Working Group and furthering the Youth Innovation Challenge promulgated by the CEC. These committees have become an essential component of the U.S. leadership process within the CEC. Without these committees the U.S. would not have input from States, Tribes, local government, business, NGO's and academics in the trilateral work of the CEC. These representatives provide fresh perspectives to initiatives proposed by the U.S. Government, prior to discussion and consideration in the trilateral context. Advice from these various sectors provides essential feedback to the federal government for improving our positions in the trilateral work of the CEC.

## **APPOINTMENT DATES**

The committee members were appointed **February 5, 2019** and their terms will expire on **October 30, 2020**. The membership package was approved by the Office of the Administrator on November 1, 2018 (*see attachment 4: NAC and GAC Concurrence Sheets*). Even though the committee membership package was approved in 2018, due to complications with EPA's Correspondence Management System and the government shutdown in January 2019, the appointment letters were not sent out until February 5, 2019, (*see attachment 5: Sample Appointment Letters*).

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Both the NAC and GAC Chairs were appointed on **February 5, 2019** and their terms will terminate **October 30, 2020**. Recruitment for new committee members and Chairs will start **January 2020**.

Theresa Pardo is the Chair of the National Advisory Committee. She was appointed Chair on October 22, 2016 for two years, and she was reappointed as Chair on February 5, 2019. Her term as Chair will end October 30, 2020. Dr. Pardo is Director of the Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany where she also holds research professor appointments in Public Administration and Policy and in Informatics. Under her leadership, the Center works closely with multi-sector and multi-disciplinary teams from the U.S. and around the world to carry out applied research and problem-solving projects focused on the intersections of policy, management, and technology in the governmental context (*see attachment 6: NAC Chair biography*).

Sally Ann Gonzales is the Chair of the U.S Governmental Advisory Committee. She was appointed Chair on February 5, 2019 and her term will end on October 30, 2020. Ms. Gonzales is a member of the Arizona State Senate, representing District 3. She served in the Arizona House of Representatives prior to being elected to the Senate in 2018. She was also a member of Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council from 1992 to 1998. She currently serves in the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate. Ms. Gonzales earned a B.A. from Arizona State University in 1985 and a Masters in 1994. Her professional experience includes working as a bilingual classroom teacher for the Tucson Unified School District (*see attachment 7: GAC Chair biography*).